



# Washington State Department of Agriculture

## *Animal ID update*

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### **More than 500 register premises in 1<sup>st</sup> quarter with WSDA animal ID system**

**OLYMPIA** – The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) received over 500 applications for animal livestock premise registration during the first quarter. Premise registration is the first step to build the National Animal Identification System (NAIS), a system being designed to help animal health officials to better manage their responses to an outbreak of disease or an animal health emergency.

Animal owners may register their premises online on the WSDA Web site or download a form and mail it in.

WSDA received a \$115,000 cooperative agreement in January from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's APHIS Veterinary Services to begin the premise registration phase. WSDA staff sent more than 8,000 letters to registered brand owners, dairy farms, sales yards, feedlots and large animal veterinarians requesting their voluntary registration.

WSDA will apply for additional federal funds in July to help fund the program.

State Veterinarian Dr. Leonard Eldridge and Animal ID Specialist Chris Spaulding are making presentations to associations and interest groups throughout Washington. They've presented to Cattlemen's Associations, Backcountry Horsemen groups, sheep and poultry producers and cattle feeders. The presentations describe the premise registration program and future phases of animal identification and animal movement reporting. Upcoming presentations will be made at fairs, livestock markets and feeder groups.

The second phase of the project, animal identification, will begin by September. Once animals are identified, producers can report animal movements between premises. Participation is voluntary at this time, but USDA is targeting 2009 for mandatory participation.

As part of the process of establishing a national system, USDA will approve tag manufacturers and distributors. For cattle, the tags will be visual and RFID (radio frequency). Producer groups are determining what identification devices will be used for each species.

For more information, or to register your animal premise online, go to the WSDA Web site [www.agr.wa.gov](http://www.agr.wa.gov) and click on "Food & Animals."

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